

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00502 072329Z

66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 AGR-20 COME-00 DRC-01 /084 W
----- 096700

P R 072310Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4674

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSYMANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAM SALVADOR 0502

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EAGR, EAID, ES

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON RESIGNATION OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTER
AND SUB-SECRETARY

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0485

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP; USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. THE AID MISSION DIRECTOR, DURING A FEB 7 CALL ON
CENTRAL PLANNING (CONAPLAN) CHIEF VIEZTEZ, WAS TOLD
AGRICULTURE MINISTER LLACH HILL RESIGNED OVER POLICY DIFFERENCES
WITH THE MOLINA GOVERNMENT. FOR THE SECOND TIME WITHIN A SHORT
PERIOD, LEGISLATION WHICH HAD BEEN MODIFIED IN DRAFT BY LLACH
WAS RETURNED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND APPROVED BY THE
PRESIDENT IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM, IGNORING SOME OF THE CHANGES
PROPOSED BY THE MINISTER. VIEZTEZ TERMED LLACH'S RESIGNATION
"UNREAL", IMPLYING THAT HE TOOK THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTION TOO SERIOUSLY.

2. DURING A LUNCHEON FEB 7 WITH A GROUP OF PCN DEPUTIES I
RECEIVED A SIMILAR ACCOUNT TO THE ABOVE, BUT SPECIFICALLY
RELATED TO A DISPUTE OVER RECENT LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE
SALVADORAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION. THE DECREE AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 00502 072329Z

PASSED WOULD PERMIT THE ASSOCIATION TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN EXPORT

SLAUGHTER HOUSE, A PROVISION ALLEGEDLY OPPOSED BY LLACH (WHO IN TURN WAS BACKED BY THE OWNERS OF THE TWO OPERATING SLAUGHTER HOUSES). THE PRESIDENT AND LLACH REPORTEDLY HAD A LENGTHLY DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE AND WHEN RECONCILIATION OF IDEAS FAILED, LLACH PACKED HIS BAGS BUT PARTED AMIABLY. (AS EXPLAINED IN REFTTEL, CABRALES' SIMULTANEOUS RESIGNATION WAS TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN HIS CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH LLACH. THE DEPUTIES ALSO SPECULATED THAT ESCOBAR, THE STRONGER OF THE TWO NEW APPOINTEES, MAY BE CHARGED WITH BRINGING ORDER TO THE FOOD STABILIZATION AGENCY IRA WITH WHICH PRESIDENT MOLINA HAS LONG BEEN UNHAPPY. THEY CONSIDERED CASTILLO WEAK AND SUSPECTED THAT PERHAPS THE TWO MAY NOT BE IN THE MINISTRY LONG.

3. IN A FEB 7 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF LLACH WOULD NOT GO INTO THE REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION ON THE TELEPHONE BUT DID SAY THE DECISION TO RESIGN WAS MADE AFTER FEB 2, THAT THE TRANSITION WAS "SMOOTH", AND THAT HE LEFT ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH THE PRESIDENT (AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR ALVAREZ). HE SAID HE HAD CONVEYED TO THE NEW AGRICULTURE TEAM THE UP-TO-DATE STATUS OF AID PROGRAMS AND URGED THE MINISTER TO MAINTAIN CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH AID.

4. THE AID DIRECTOR CHANCED TO MEET BOTH CASTILLO AND ESCOBAR AT CONAPLAN FEB 7. CASTILLO INDICATED THAT LLACH HAD BRIEFED HIM THOROUGHLY ON AID AND BID PROGRAMS, AND HAD URGED AN EARLY MEETING WITH AID AND BID DIRECTORS. CASTILLO HOPED THAT A BRIEFING SESSION WITH THE AID DIRECTORS COULD BE ARRANGED NEXT WEEK.

5. COMMENT: WHILE ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR THE RESIGNATIONS MAY YET COME TO LIGHT, THEY DO NOT THUS FAR APPEAR TO STEM FROM A DISPUTE OVER BASIC AGRICULTURE POLICY, AS IN THE CASE OF ALVAREZ (AGRARIAN REFORM, NOR WOULD THEY SEEM TO SIGNAL ANY CHANGES IN GOES AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THEREFORE, US RELATIONSHIPS AND AID PROGRAMS SHOULD BE AFFECTED ONLY TO THE EXTENT OF LOST MOMENTUM AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TECHNICALLY LESS COMPETENT TEAM.
SCOTT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, MEETINGS, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANSAA00502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740248/aaaabtkw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN SALVADOR 0485
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BACKGROUND ON RESIGNATION OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTER AND SUB-SECRETARY
TAGS: PGOV, EAGR, EAID, ES, (CABRALES, ANTONIO), (LLACH, ROBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005